

CAPE COD BAY CRITICAL HABITAT
CLOSURE AREA

Point	N. latitude	W. longitude
CCB1	42°12' N	70°30' W
CCB2	42°12' N	70°15' W
CCB3	42°08' N	70°12.4' W

Then westerly along the 3 NM state boundary to

CCB4 | 42°08' N | 70°30' W
Then due north to CCB1

(2) *Great South Channel Critical Habitat Closure Area.* From April 1 through June 30 of each year, the restrictions and requirements specified in paragraph (b) of this section apply to the Great South Channel Critical Habitat Closure Area (copies of a chart depicting this area are available from the Regional Administrator upon request), which is the area bounded by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated.

GREAT SOUTH CHANNEL CRITICAL
HABITAT CLOSURE AREA

Point	N. latitude	W. longitude
GSC1	41°02.2' N	69°02' W
GSC2	41°43.5' N	69°36.3' W
GSC3	42°10' N	68°31' W
GSC4	41°38' N	68°13' W

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Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: October 1, 1997.

David L. Evans,

*Deputy Assistant Administrator for Fisheries,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration

50 CFR Part 648

[Docket No. 961210346-7035-02; I.D.
100197A]

Fisheries of the Northeastern United
States; Summer Flounder Fishery;
Commercial Quota Available for New
Jersey

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries
Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration (NOAA),
Commerce.

ACTION: Commercial quota availability.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces that
summer flounder commercial quota is
available to the State of New Jersey to

allow a reopening of the State to
landings of summer flounder. Vessels
issued a commercial Federal fisheries
permit for the summer flounder fishery
may resume landings of summer
flounder in New Jersey for the
remainder of calendar year 1997, or
until the remaining quota allocation is
harvested.

DATES: Effective October 3, 1997
through December 31, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Regina L. Spallone, Fishery Policy
Analyst, (978) 281-9221.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Regulations governing the summer
flounder fishery are found at 50 CFR
part 648. The regulations require annual
specification of a commercial quota that
is apportioned among the states from
North Carolina through Maine. The
process to set the annual commercial
quota and the percent allocated to each
state are described in § 648.100. The
initial total commercial quota for
summer flounder for the 1997 calendar
year was set equal to 11,111,298 lb
(5,040,000 kg) (62 FR 10473, March 7,
1997). The percent allocated to vessels
landing summer flounder in New Jersey
is 16.72499 percent, or 1,858,363 lb
(842,939 kg) in 1997. After deducting a
510,771 lb (231,682 kg) overage landed
in 1996, as specified in section
648.100(d)(2), New Jersey was left with
an adjusted 1997 commercial quota of
1,347,592 lb (611,257 kg) (62 FR 37741,
July 15, 1997). Section 648.101(b)
requires the Administrator, Northeast
Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator),
to monitor state commercial quotas and
to determine when a state's commercial
quota is harvested. Based on dealer
reports and other available information,
the Regional Administrator determined
that the commercial quota available to
New Jersey had been harvested, and no
quota was available for that State for the
remainder of 1997. Thus, effective
September 24, 1997 (62 FR 50525,
September 26, 1997), summer flounder
landings in the State of New Jersey by
federally permitted vessels, and
purchases by federally permitted
dealers, were prohibited for the
remainder of 1997. The closure of the
State to landings was based on
projections of landings from dealer
reports. However, due to State action to
control landings through trip limits,
actual landings have fallen short of
projections. Specifically, prior to the
NMFS closure, New Jersey closed its
directed fishery and landings dropped
off significantly. The State now has a
bycatch trip limit in place for the
remainder of the year (10 percent of
total fish on board, up to a maximum of

100 lb/trip (45 kg/trip) until November
1st; 200 lb/trip (91 kg/trip) after that
date). Thus, available data indicate that
approximately 50,000 lb (22,680 kg)
remain in New Jersey's annual
commercial quota of 1,347,592 lb
(611,257 kg). Since summer flounder
commercial quota is available to New
Jersey to be harvested, and in order to
allow the State to receive the full benefit
of its annual allocation of quota, the
closure, published on September 26,
1997, is rescinded.

Classification

This action is required by 50 CFR part
648 and is exempt from review under
E.O. 12286.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: October 2, 1997.

Gary Matlock,

*Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 961107312-7021-02; I.D.
100197D]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic
Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in the
Offshore Component in the Bering Sea
Subarea

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries
Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration (NOAA),
Commerce.

ACTION: Inseason adjustment; request for
comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS issues an inseason
adjustment closing the season for
pollock by vessels catching pollock for
processing by the offshore component in
the Bering Sea subarea (BS) of the
Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands
management area (BSAI) at midnight
rather than noon. This adjustment is
necessary to prevent the underharvest of
pollock by vessels catching pollock for
processing by the offshore component in
the BS of the BSAI.

DATES: Effective 2400 hrs, Alaska local
time (A.l.t.), October 2, 1997, until 2400
hrs, A.l.t., December 31, 1997.

Comments must be received at the
following address no later than 4:30
p.m., A.l.t., October 22, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be sent to
Chief, Fisheries Management Division,